

Tomasz Schreiber (1975-2010)

Written by Joanna Karłowska-Pik

Tomasz Schreiber was born on 25th June 1975 in Toruń. His mathematical talent was discovered very early. In 1990 he started education in the secondary school, IV Liceum Ogólnokształcące in Toruń, which is often quoted as „the forge of the Olympians”. His teachers, Zbigniew Bobiński and Mirosław Uscki are known popularizers of mathematics. After two years of education Tomasz began his visits at the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science of the Nicolaus Copernicus University. He attended lectures with his older colleagues being the brilliant student. He was honored with the Primus Inter Pares medal as one of the best graduates of IV Liceum Ogólnokształcące.

Tomasz was a finalist and a triple winner of the Mathematical Olympiad in Poland. He was a participant of the International Austrian-Polish Mathematical Competition (in 1991 and 1992), XXXIV International Mathematical Olympiad in Istanbul (1993) and the XXXV International Mathematical Olympiad in Hong Kong (1994). He was awarded at the International Mathematical Competition „Mathematical Kangaroo” in 1993. Tomasz was also interested in physics. He was a candidate for International Physics Olympiad. He couldn't attend this event because he decided to go to Hong Kong where he achieved a gold medal of the 35th International Mathematical Olympiad. After this huge success he received many awards, in particular a scholarship of Polish Minister of National Education.

In 1994, Tomasz began studies at the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer Science Nicolaus Copernicus University in Toruń, both in the fields of mathematics and computer science. During this period he received Stefan Batory Foundation Scholarship in Oxford in 1998, the honour of the Best Student of the Nicolaus Copernicus University (also in 1998) and the Scholarship of the Polish Minister of National Education (1998/99). He was awarded the First Prize of the Wrocław Branch of Polish Mathematical Society for the best master thesis in probability.

In 1999 he obtained a position of the assistant professor of our faculty in the Department of Probability Theory and Stochastic Analysis. He was a very active member of our group, the most talented but also most modest of us. At that time he received Summer Stipend 2000 – grant of the Danish organization MaPhySto (2000), Professor S. Saks Scholarship of the Foundation of Wrocław Mathematicians (2000), Scholarship of The Institute of Mathematics of Polish Academy of Science for young Polish mathematicians (2000-2001). After 2 years, in 2002 he defended his Ph.D. dissertation ”Random closed sets: limit theorems, large deviations and statistical applications” written under the guidance of prof. Aleksander Nagajew, awarded by the Polish Minister of Education and Sports. Tomasz was awarded and honored with the Fellowship of the Foundation for Polish Science (2003-2004), The Kazimierz Kuratowski Prize for Young Mathematicians (2005) and numerous awards of the Nicolaus Copernicus University Rector for academic achievements.

On 27 August 2005 Tomasz married Agnieszka. I am sure that the days with her were among the happiest in Tomasz's life but at the same time they were the hardest because of the fatal disease which crept into his life.

Tomasz never gave up. He continued working hard, and on 28.02.2007 he obtained habilitation in mathematical sciences awarded by the Faculty of Mathematics and Computer

Science NCU based on habilitation dissertation "Laws of large deviations and limit theorems in stochastic geometry and for geometric models of statistical mechanics."

Tomasz was asked to write a chapter „Limit Theorems in Stochastic Geometry” in a prestigious monography *New Perspectives in Stochastic Geometry* published by Oxford Univ. Press in 2010. He wrote 35 scientific papers published in such scientific journals as The Annals of Probability, Communications in Mathematical Physics, Journal of Statistical Physics, Stochastic Processes and their Applications, Advances in Applied Probability, Neural Networks, out of which 1/3 of papers were written with international co-authors. Additional 15 papers were published post mortem. His results were cited in such books as *Percolation* by B. Bollobas and O. Riordan (Cambridge University Press, 2005), *Theory of Random Sets* by S. Molchanov (Springer, 2005) and *Fundamentals of Statistics with Fuzzy Databy* H.T. Nguyen and B. Wu (Springer, 2006).

Tomasz was an active member of the scientific community. He participated 38 conferences. He was a special invited speaker on the 28th European Meeting of Statisticians, Piraeus 2010, he gave Invited Lecture on the conference Stochastic Processes and their Applications, Paris 2006 and was an Organizer of the Session *Stochastic Geometry* on the conference Stochastic Processes and their Applications, Berlin 2009. He also gave the Keynote Lecture on the Fourth Workshop on Spatial Stochastic Models for Wireless Networks, Berlin 2008.

Tomasz was visiting many famous universities and institutions including IRMAR (Rennes, France), CWI (Amsterdam, the Netherlands), Lehigh University (USA), Ruhr-University Bochum (Germany), Eurandom Eindhoven (The Netherlands), Rennes I University (France), University of Munich (Germany), University of Copenhagen (Denmark), University of Delaware (USA), Lille I University (France), University of Glasgow (UK), University of Warwick (UK), Charles University in Prague (Czech Republic).

Tomasz was also a great teacher. The master thesis of one of his master graduates Filip Piękniewski earned a distinction in the contest for best masters thesis in computer science organized by Polish Information Processing Society. Likewise the master thesis of another student Natalia Soja was awarded in the contest for the best student's paper in probability theory and applications of mathematics. On 29 September 2009 Tomasz Schreiber obtained the professors nomination of the Nicolaus Copernicus Univeristy.

Tomasz was a brilliant scientist, but also a great human being. Always humble, smiling, with a great sense of humor. He had many different interests such as music, foreign languages and computer games. He was a great friend.

Tomasz died on the 1st of December 2010 after five years of struggle with a serious disease. Before death, he left his ideas in the hands of his co-workers. I would like to thank all scientists who have developed, or perhaps even continued to develop, these ideas.